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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 26, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable PAUL MITCHELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL PATRICK D. FRANK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Patrick D. Frank, who is currently serving as the acting senior commander of the 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, but departing soon for a new post after serving in this capacity since October 2016.

Brigadier General Frank was the first to welcome me as a new Member

of Congress, and he and his wife, Jennifer, have always served as great ambassadors for the Big Red One.

Thank you to the general and Jennifer for always making me, as well as my staff, feel so very welcome at Fort Riley.

Brigadier General Frank has received numerous awards and served in multiple theaters, some of which include Operation Desert Storm, Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

We commend him for his service to our Nation and wish him and Jennifer the best of luck and much success in his next post as deputy commander general of the Army Cadet Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He and Jennifer will certainly be missed at Fort Riley and in Kansas.

ENFORCING TRADE AGREEMENTS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Trump administration for their recent work on enforcement of trade agreements.

Kansas is an export-dependent State. We supply food, feed, aircraft, and parts to countries all over the world.

As I have traveled the State over the past 6 months, I have heard repeatedly that we must find ways to open new markets for United States producers, including Kansans.

The good news is that this administration is focused on doing just that: opening new markets. The announcement that U.S. beef will be allowed back in China is a tremendous example. China is a \$2.5 billion beef market, which the U.S. has been unfairly shut out of for 13 years. This bilateral success shows how serious the U.S. is about holding other countries accountable and that our negotiators are working on behalf of U.S. producers.

Recent confirmation that the U.S. is continuing World Trade Organization cases against China's import barriers for wheat, corn, and rice is also welcome news for United States farmers.

China has flagrantly violated their WTO commitments, costing U.S. producers billions in lost farm income as China put up import barriers and stockpiled surplus grains that are weighing on world markets.

Our global rules-based trading system has brought tremendous benefits to American businesses, farmers, workers, and consumers. As global commerce has expanded, we have found that, when there is a free and level playing field, American producers can match any competitor.

CONGRATULATING LAUREN EMERSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Lauren Emerson from Rapides High School for being recognized as one of the top 20 ag teachers in the Nation by the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

Lauren's students come into her classroom with a strong background in agriculture, and she provides hands-on lessons that provoke meaningful connections between the curriculum and their work at home to help take their learning to the next level.

Her students can earn industry certifications and dual credit by enrolling in her agricultural courses. She helps develop her students' leadership skills through the National FFA Organization, skills they need to move forward with higher levels of education, postgraduate education, and just for life.

To borrow from the FFA creed, I, too, believe in the future of agriculture because of educators like Lauren Emerson who are leading the next generation of agriculturalists. The Fifth District is proud to recognize Ms. Emerson for all she is doing for her ag students.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, thank You for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing of strength and perseverance that each Member might best serve their constituents and our entire Nation.

The debates and issues that dominate the legislative landscape, as always, are contentious and challenging. Many Americans are anxious to know what will come to pass.

Bless the Members of Congress with wisdom, equanimity, and good will as they struggle to find solutions that might unite rather than further divide our Nation. We know this is a lot to ask, but grant also to all Americans increased faith and hope, virtues most in need in these difficult days, that their Representatives might faithfully perform their appointed tasks.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, June is National Homeownership Month, and it is a time when

we celebrate and recognize the many benefits of owning a home.

For generations of Americans, owning a home has been an essential element in achieving the American Dream. But since the Great Recession, we have seen homeownership rates drop to historic lows.

Young families often find themselves unable to save for a downpayment or to gain access to adequate credit. This is especially true for those in rural areas.

The United States Department of Agriculture places emphasis on helping rural Americans buy homes. USDA provides mortgage loan guarantees through partnerships with private sector lenders to help low- to moderate-income rural home buyers.

In 2016 alone, USDA worked with nearly 1,500 lenders to help 116,000 rural individuals and families buy homes. USDA has helped more than 4.1 million rural residents buy a home since the National Housing Act was passed 68 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, the benefits of homeownership have widespread benefits. Homeownership fortifies communities, creates jobs, and strengthens the local businesses that support our towns.

Thank you to USDA for your commitment to providing affordable housing for rural Americans. Happy National Homeownership Month.

CELEBRATING LGBT EQUALITY DAY

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate LGBT Equality Day. Today, we mark the anniversary of landmark victories at the Supreme Court that moved our country toward one that is more fair, more equal, and more inclusive of all Americans, and we are a better, stronger Nation for it.

Each year, on June 26, we commemorate the decriminalization of loving LGBT couples, in overturning of the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act, and now marriage equality in all 50 States.

But even as we celebrate this incredible progress, we must never forget the work that remains.

The LGBT community continues to face staggering rates of harassment and discrimination for who they are and who they love. I invite all my colleagues to stand with me on the right side of history. America is ready to take the next step forward.

So today, let's recommit to breaking down the barriers that remain in fulfilling the American promise of liberty and justice for all.

THE SUPREME COURT CAN SAVE US

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, why run for Congress when a single Federal judge can write a new law without having to get any votes for it?

Another Federal court recently decided that President Trump cannot set immigration policy, despite his having the clear authority to do so.

It is hard to believe this is happening in the United States of America where judges are supposed to interpret the law, not engage in partisan politics.

Our last hope now is with the Supreme Court. Surely they will remind other courts that their ruling should rest on the plain meaning of statutes, not on their personal views of the President.

That some judges ignore precedent and the Constitution is a clear and present danger to our democracy. If the Supreme Court does not strongly affirm that President Trump has the same rights as other Presidents, we will be witnessing the slow unraveling of our democratic form of government.

Based on their preliminary actions today, though, let us have confidence that the Supreme Court has the collective wisdom to guard and guide our great Nation.

HONORING TEJ MAAN, YUBA CITY CITY COUNCIL

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tej Maan, an upstanding citizen and council member in my district. Mr. Maan has been the director of environmental health in Yuba County since 1998, where he has created vital safeguards to protect the environmental health and well-being of the Yuba County community.

Additionally, Mr. Maan is a member of the Punjabi American Heritage Society, the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health, and the Yuba City Chamber of Commerce. He is the host of a local television show called "Punjabi Waves," which features discussions and in-depth interviews on current events and issues in the Punjabi community.

Mr. Maan is also the founder of the first Sikh school in the United States, which is located in Yuba City. Tej's love for America and his selfless dedication to his community have made him a well-respected and treasured member of the Yuba City region. I offer my utmost appreciation and gratitude for Tej Maan's many contributions to society.

HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANCE OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PROGRAM

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of